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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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SUBJECT Coal Production in the Zwickau - Oelsnitz District During the First Quarter of 1950

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1. Production of coal in the Zwickau-Oelsnitz District was as follows for the first quarter of 1950. Figures for the equivalent period in 1949 are given for comparison.

| | Prescribed Quota | Actual Output | Percentage of Quota filled |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| Jan 1950 | 277,200 tons | 232,144 tons | 83.3% |
| (Jan 1949) | (255,200 tons) | (255,539 tons) | (100.1%) |
| Feb 1950 | 255,900 tons | 216,865 tons | 84.7% |
| (Feb 1949) | (244,100 tons) | (244,354 tons) | (100.1%) |
| March 1950 | 287,900 tons | 245,444 tons | 85.3% |
| (March 1949) | (265,700 tons) | (276,693 tons) | (104.1%) |
| Total 1st quarter 1950 | 821,000 tons | 694,503 tons | 84.6% |
| (Total 1st quarter 1949) | (765,000 tons) | (776,586 tons) | (101.5%) |

2. The prescribed quota for the second quarter 1950 was 786,000 tons. In the second quarter 1949 the prescribed quota was 740,000 tons, the actual output was 763,918 tons, and the percentage of the quota filled was 103.2%. *

25X1 Comment. reported the March 1949 quota as 165,700 tons, but because this seemed to be an error changed it to 265,700 tons.

25X1 The other figures are given as reported despite slight discrepancies.

25X1 Aside from iron and steel, the shortage of coal is the most serious bottleneck in the economy of the Soviet Zone of Germany. The coal mines in the district of Zwickau (N 51/K 34) and Oelsnitz (N 51/K 11) are the oldest of their kind in Germany and are on the verge of exhaustion. Coal was recently discovered in the Dobrilugk-Kirchhain district (N 52/A 05) but it will not be possible to mine coal there before 1951. The Soviet Zone of Germany always had to import

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coal either from the Ruhr district or the former German coal mines of Upper Silesia. As an example, the total consumption of coal in the Soviet Zone of Germany amounted to about 20 million tons in 1938. The coal output in the zone was 3.7 million tons at that time, so 16.3 million tons of coal had to be imported. The Law concerning the National Economic Plan for 1950 provided special measures for increasing the coal production which was scheduled to be 3.3 million tons in 1950 and 4 million tons in 1951. Actually, however, the production of coal dropped during the first half-year of 1950 as is confirmed by the figures of the present report. This has already caused violent attacks against the Board of Directors of the VVE (Z) Steinkohle for inefficiency and red tape. From 31 January to 4 February 1950 Sobottka, (Znu), president of the Main Administration for Coal visited the production plants "Gutehoffnungshütte" in Oberhausen (K 52/A 52) and "Westfalia" in Lünen (K 52/A 53), the Still coke-processing plant in Rocklinghausen (K 52/A 63) and installations of various pits in the Ruhr district in an effort to study problems relative to increased mechanization of the coal mines in the Zwickau district. However an immediate increase in mechanization is not feasible since the Soviet Zone of Germany is lacking the workmarks required for purchasing the necessary mining machines from Western Germany. A labor increase also seems hardly possible under present conditions, since men who are between 18 and 35 years of age and fit for work in mines are required to work in the uranium mines.

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